

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-23 were pending. Claims 14 and 16-20 were allowed. Claims 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

By this amendment, claims 21-23 are cancelled, and the prior rejection is now moot. In addition, new claims 24-27 have been added which are directed to further aspects of Applicants' invention. Support for these claims is found throughout the application as filed. No new matter will be added to the application by entry of these claims.

Further, these new claims are believed to be patentable to at least reasons similar to the reasons that claims 14 and 16-20 are allowable.

Accordingly, entry of these amendments is requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as they will place this application in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/647,630
Paper dated July 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated May 13, 2004

CONCLUSION

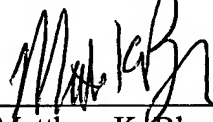
For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4846US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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